New Data on CIA-Police School Ties

By Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

The investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency will focus, among other things, on its links to foreign police forces.

In past columns, we have reported that the CIA has penetrated foreign police forces through programs, which bring policemen to this country for special training.

We got hold of a letter last August from CIA Director William E. Colby, telling how "relationships" built up with policemen through these programs had been useful in "obtaining foreign intelligence" from foreign constabularies.

The friendly foreign cops, like national police everywhere, are privy to their nation's darkest secrets. Police contacts have slipped some of these secrets, according to our sources, to the CIA.

New evidence has come to light, for example, that the CIA has given undercover support to the International Police Academy. During the past 11 years, more than 5,000 foreign cops have passed through the doors of Washington's old street-car garage, known as the "Car Barn," where the IPA is housed.

They have come from 77 governments, ranging from Brazil and Chile to South Korea and South Vietnam. Some of the trainees have returned home to help keep dictators in power.

Sen. James Abourezk (D-S.D.) has fired off a private letter to three congressional committees asking them to investigate the CIA-IPA connection.

He told of his own 18-month study. He learned from this, for example, that foreign policemen were trained "in bomb-making in a remote desert camp in Texas." Some of the training, wrote the senator, was provided by "CIA instructors."

"In addition to the bomb school," charged Abourezk, "we have learned that the (IPA) graduates also attend a school of Psychological Operations at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. . . . I am convinced that the CIA has strong ties with this school as well."

He also declared, as we have reported earlier, that some IPA students had written theses "on the use of torture as one technique of interrogation of prisoners."

In the book, "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence," ex-CIA man Victor Marchetti and his co-author John Marks describe the link between the CIA and IPA. "The Academy," they write, "is operated by AID's Public Safety Division, which regularly supplies cover to CIA operators all over the world. And the CIA takes advantage of exchange programs to recruit agents." AID is the Agency for International Development.

The CIA attempted to censor this passage from the book, but it was reinstated after negotiations with the authors.

Philip Agee, a CIA operative who spent 12 years in Latin America, has just published a book in England about the CIA. He also describes the IPA as a "CIA-controlled police training school under AID cover in Washington, D.C."

In an upcoming Harper's Weekly article, investigative reporters John Marks and Taylor Branch will cite still more evidence of a CIA-IPA link. They quote one retired, high-ranking CIA official as telling them, for example, that the CIA controlled IPA until the last year or two. Then it was "turned over to AID . . . that is, really turned over."

Marks and Branch will also reveal that the CIA operated a commercial "cover" called International Police Services, Inc. According to their account, this outfit operated out of an old Washington brownstone mansion from 1952 until a few months ago.

It exported police equipment and ran a training school for foreign cops, they will report. This operation, they will say, served as a "graduate school" for the IPA.

Footnote: The CIA has told us that all agency support for the IPA has been terminated. An IPA spokesman insists, nevertheless, that "the CIA has never controlled the International Police Academy."

Congressional Binges—We reported on Dec. 26 that Rep. Wilbur Mills (D-Ark.), whose escapades at the Washington Tidal Basin and on a Boston burlesque stage catapulted him on to the front pages, had a "binge problem." We quoted three medical sources as saying that "alcohol was a factor in Mills' hospitalization."

Four days later, Mills confessed he was an alcoholic. This caused great agonizing in the press rooms of Washington. Reporters are asking one another whether they should write more about the drinking habits of Washington dignitaries.

Certainly, the permissive attitude in Congress is hospitable to elbow bending. Congress has had its share of alcoholics, whose identities have been carefully concealed with the cooperation of a tolerant press.

Many members keep open bars in their offices. When there is voting on the Senate floor, compelling senators to hang around for roll calls, bars are automatically opened in some of the ornate offices near the Senate floor.

Under the tinkling cut-glass chandeliers, senators can find the stimulation that might be lacking in a dull debate. For years, the late Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) led a lonely campaign against these unlicensed bars. "There has never been one night session of the Senate in all my experience," Morse complained, "that hasn't witnessed at least one senator making a fool of himself and disgracing the Senate."

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